

Emergency services Emergency responder



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EMS News

2

- 3 employees off to war
- FOCUS OF THE FINEST WINNERS

Fire Training News

3

- Walden's Ridge gets Fire Grant
- FFI and FFII classes are in session
- Haunted House

Training News

4

- September
- October

Safety News

5

- Communicating with Senior Citizens

Comments or
Suggestions to the Editor,
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Email:
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From The Chief's Corner

Chief Ken Wilkerson, HCEMS

Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services is the host provider of 911 ambulance response, treatment, and transport for most of Hamilton County. However, it is but a portion of the overall emergency medical services SYSTEM across the County. That system consists of fire departments, first responders, law enforcement, and other response agencies working together to answer the needs of the citizens.

Oversight for the provision of pre-hospital emergency medical care falls under the responsibility of the Emergency Medical Services Division of the Tennessee Department of Health. They have tasked each individual host E.M.S. agency to

oversee and coordinate the provision of all medical first response within their service area. . This means that each individual first responder agency operates under the host E.M.S. agency's licensure and must adhere to the regulations as established by legislation and policy. Each participating agency must participate in a common quality improvement process and must provide to the coordinating agency information relating to the staffing of response vehicles, level of training of personnel, and a history of treatment provided to each patient. This assures the public of a continuity of care and a consistency of service within the entire service area.

I want to thank each individual first responder agency for their dedication to duty and the efforts expended by the first responders themselves who

respond, no matter the time or weather, to the medical needs of their district. Too many times we fail to look at the overall picture when considering the type of care being provided to the public. This care is provided by a team of professionals, both paid and volunteer, who work within an established guideline. The citizens of Hamilton County, as well as our visitors and tourists, can rest assured in the knowledge that no matter how serious the need, how involved the response, or the size of the incident, that need will be met by an Emergency Medical SYSTEM. A system setting the standard for others to follow.

Chief Ken Wilkerson



Evacuation Drills for County Buildings still in progress

Thanks goes out to the following employees who contributed their time with the evacuations: Chief Tony Reavley, Chief Bill Tittle, Chief Ken Wilkerson, Deputy Chief John Combes, Capt. Rip Rohen, Lt. Jody Clift, Lt. Buddy Kamin, Lt. Jerry McDonald, Bill Stoll, Dan Niedergesis, and Rick Hamrick.

**I appreciate all your help.
AMY MAXWELL**



City/County Courts Employees return to their offices after participating in a fire drill on August 27, 2004.



Courthouse Employees evacuate building during a drill on August 26, 2004



Contributed Photo
Staff Sgt. Timothy Prince, of Harrison, gets weapon training at Camp Shelby, Miss., in preparation for deployment to Iraq later this year. He is one of 21 guardsmen from a Chattanooga unit who volunteered to go overseas with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

EMS News

Three EMS personnel Head Off to War

By: Amy Maxwell

A few weeks ago, this photo of Tim Prince was published on the front page of the Metro section of the Chattanooga Times Free Press. For those who missed reading this article, I thought I would share some of the information with you.

The article featured several local guardsmen volunteered to leave for Iraq in June 2004. One of these local guardsmen was Tim Prince. Staff Sgt. Tim Prince took a leave of absence from his job at HCEMS to serve as a senior medical noncommissioned officer. Prince had said, "reading about all the deaths and injuries in Iraq made me want to return to the region where I went during the Persian Gulf War. You can call it

patriotism, but I look at it as taking care of soldiers. As a soldier, this is where I need to be." Prince also said, "Medics in the regular Army have the benefit of treating soldiers who are healthy and in peak physical condition, while medics in the National Guard often deal with older servicemen who may be on medication and need to be watched more closely." Prince explained a lot of soldiers in Iraq are contracting pneumonia because the country's poor air quality. He said the medics are instructing guardsmen to stay away from the country's water supply, which is causing Hepatitis A. The medics will serve as front-line relief and must stabilize any injured guardsmen so they can be transported to a field or base hospital.

Hamilton County EMS had one employee return home safely last May 2004, Paul Bobenhausen. Tim Prince and Robert Brinkley received orders and left for duty in March 2004 but were sent back home until further notifications. HCEMS personnel, Captain Dale Head, Lt. Andy Gienapp and Tim Prince received their orders in June 2004. For those who would like to send a care package or card to these three gentlemen, the addresses are:

SSGT Head, Norman D.

Mike Battery
4th BN 14th Marines
EOX Box 555720
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055/5720

Lt. Steven A. Gienapp

HHB 1/278th RCT
1001 Lee Avenue
Camp Shelby, MI 39407

SSG Prince, Timothy B.

RRT 278 ACR
BLDG. 2490 25th Street
Camp Shelby, MI 39407



MVP Awards and Focus of the Finest winners

Lt. Cynthia Schermerhorn-Paramedic-HCEMS

Lt. Frank Robinson-Paramedic-HCEMS

Pam Durham-Office Coordinator-Emergency Services

JOB WELL DONE!

Fire Training News

Walden's Ridge Emergency Services Receives Fire Grant

After three separate attempts, Captain Jay Heavilon, WRES, is happy to announce that Walden's Ridge Emergency Services has received a grant from the United States Fire Administration in the amount of \$95,775. This grant will pay for new breathing apparatus for the firefighters of Walden's Ridge Emergency Services. The current SCBA equipment is in the process of being discontinued.

Walden's Ridge Emergency Services has 65 active firefighters. This fire department runs an average of thirty 9-1-1 calls a months and covers 50 square miles to the residents of Signal Mountain.

CONGRATULATIONS!

FIREFIGHTER I & II CLASSES — BACK IN SESSION

Firefighter I 2005-1 class is back in session. Class started for the new fire cadets on August 23, 2004 at the Chattanooga Fire Training Center. These cadets are set to graduate the 240 hours curriculum in May 2005. Twenty-one students representing several Hamilton County Volunteer

agencies. These fire cadets will be the first class to receive National Certification of Firefighter I from the state of Tennessee. This year's Firefighter I instructor is Lt. Jody Clift.

Firefighter II 2005-1 class will begin

September 14, 2004. Firefighter II cadets will graduate with 264 hours in May 2005. Fourteen students represent several Hamilton County volunteer agencies. Along with FFI cadets, this will be the first class of FFII to obtain a National Certification. Firefighter II instructor is Captain Rip Rohen.



First Annual Haunted Monster Barn Charity 2004 Produced by Dr. Spalding's Spooky Foot Productions



Sponsored By: Signal Mountain Lion's Club, Walden's Ridge Emergency Service Friends of Mountain Arts Community Center, Signal Mountain Playhouse

WHEN: The month of October every Friday & Saturday Evening
7-11 p.m. Rain or Shine
WHERE: 4431 Shackelford Ridge Road (next to Nolan Elementary)
TICKETS: \$10.00—includes Haunted Forest, Buford the Fraidy Bat & Haunted Monster Barn.

*** Haunted Hay Ride is \$5.00 extra

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are available at:

* The Grapevine, MACC, WRES, Signal Mountain Pharmacy,
Mountain Podiatry, Brow Gallery

Proceeds to benefit: Signal Mountain Lion's Club

Friends of Mountain Arts Community Center, Walden's Ridge Emergency Service
Signal Mountain Playhouse, Nolan PTA, Friends of Signal Mtn. High School



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 886-1693

Training news

Sept ember 2004INSERVICE AT MEDIC 3's

September 7: 9-11 am : Medic 3 & 8
12-2pm: Medic 6 & 11
2-4 pm: Medic 4 & 7

September 8: 9-11 am: Medic 3 & 8
12-2pm: Medic 6 & 11
2-4 pm: Medic 4 & 7

September 9: 9-11 am: Medic 3 & 8
12-2 pm: Medic 6 & 11
2-4 p.m.: Medic 4 & 7

September 10: BTLS Hutcheson (2nd Day)

September 14: Q/A Staff Meeting, Room #108

September 15: 9-11am: Medic 1 & 9
12-2pm: Medic 5 & 14
2-4 pm: Medic 2 & 13

September 16: 9-11 am: Medic 1 & 9
12-2 pm: Medic 5 & 14
2-4 pm: Medic 2 & 13

September 21: 9-11 am: Medic 2 & 10

September 22: 9-11 am: Medic 2 & 10

September 23: TVA/RAL Make Up
MLK bldg. #108
2-4 p.m.

September 29: 9-11 am: Medic 1 & 9
12-2pm: Medic 5 & 14
2-4 pm: Medic 2 & 13

Hamilton County
Emergency Services
317 Oak Street, Suite #302
Chattanooga, TN 37403

Phone: 423-209-6900
Fax: 423-209-6901

We're on the Web!
www.hamiltontn.gov

october 2004INSERVICE AT MEDIC 3's

October 5: 9-11 am : Medic 4 & 7
12-2pm: Medic 6 & 11
2-4 pm: Medic 3 & 8

October 6: 9-11 am: Medic 4 & 7
12-2pm: Medic 6 & 11
2-4 pm: Medic 3 & 8

October 7: 9-11 am: Medic 4 & 7
12-2 pm: Medic 6 & 11
2-4 p.m.: Medic 3 & 8

October 12: Q/A Staff Meeting, Room #108

October 13: 9-11am: Medic 2 & 13
12-2pm: Medic 1 & 9
2-4 pm: Medic 5 & 14

October 14: 9-11 am: Medic 2 & 13
12-2 pm: Medic 1 & 9
2-4 pm: Medic 5 & 14

October 15: Chattanooga State National Registry Re-certification Starts

October 20: 9-11 am: Medic 2 & 10

October 21: 9-11 am: Medic 2 & 13
12-2pm: Medic 1 & 9
2-4 pm: Medic 5 & 14

October 27: 9-11 am: Medic 2 & 10

October 28: 9-11 am: Medic 2 & 10

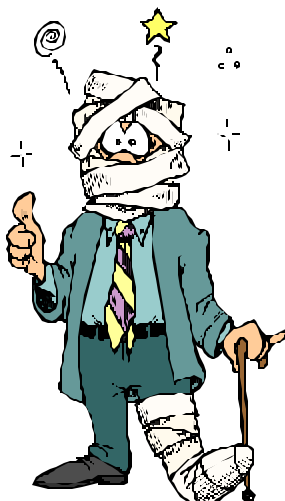
Safety News

Communicating with Senior Citizens

By: Amy Maxwell

With the population getting older and with the older person having more medical complaints, First Responders, Paramedics and EMT's are often called to assist a geriatric patient. A dilemma can arise when the older adult is hearing impaired. Below are some tips for communicating with a hearing impaired older adult. These are abstracted from *Geriatric Education for Emergency Medical Services*, authored by the American Geriatrics Society, and published by Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

- Ask the patient if he or she has a hearing aid and if he or she would like to use it. Allow a few moments for the patient to apply the hearing aid.
- Get close to the patient, approximately 18 inches away, so that he or she can see you and, if necessary, read your lips.
- Position yourself at the patient's eye level.
- Eliminate background noise if possible. Turn off radios, TVs, beeping cardiac monitors, etc. Only medics should be questioning the patient. Multiple sources of questions can be confusing.
- Make sure that room light or sunlight is on your face, and not shining into the patient's eyes.
- Do not shout or yell, as it will only distort your mouth and make lip-reading difficult, if not impossible.
- Use short sentences and rephrase questions or comments that are not understood.
- Wait for the patient to answer. Hearing and processing your questions may take a little longer in the older adult.



Do you have any Safety Concerns?

Emergency Services Safety Committee
would like to hear about your
safety concerns.

Contact: Lt. Jerry McDonald, HCEMS
at 209-6932

Emergency Services Safety Committee

Lt. Jerry McDonald, Lt. David Thompson, Capt. Rip Rohen, Amy Maxwell, Jay Jones, Wayne Cox, and Patrice Schermerhorn.

